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OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Boardman ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. Jones
Mr. Clayton
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 18, 1958

TO: Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau
of Investigation

Attached is a personal and
confidential letter that I have
received from a friend of mine,
along with my reply to him.

I would appreciate it if you
would give me your opinion regarding
this incident.

Bay
Robert Cutler

2 ENCLOSURE
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EX-136

MCT - 5

EX-136

REC-35

17 MAR 28 1958

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[Signature]

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- ☐ Name Check Unit - Room 6523
☐ Service Unit - Room 6524
☐ Forward to File Review
☐ Attention
☒ Return to

Supervisor	Room	Ext.
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☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)
☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Nonsubversive References Only
☐ Main _____ References Only

☐ Restricted to Locality of _____
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

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documentaries on Russia, and suggesting moreover, that he should get in touch with the Russian Consulate (or is it a Consulate General) in New York to make arrangements for doing such documentaries.

[redacted] did not get in touch with the Russian Consulate, and he told me that until he recounted the story to me today, he had told it to only one other person - a personal friend of his who was, at the time, in the Central Intelligence Agency.

I told him that I thought that, even now, he should follow through on this, but only after consultation with the people in the State Department or others in the Government, so that he went to the Russians, if at all, only with the prior knowledge of our Government, however unofficial such a "clearance" might be, technically speaking.

It seems to me that it just might be possible, in view of the fact that the Russians themselves have so obviously taken a first step at least in paving the way, for [redacted] to organize an expedition, with proper clearances from both governments, and with sufficient freedom of action to do a series of documentaries in Russia which could be enormously useful to the American people and the American Government in the sense that they would be illuminating about facts and conditions inside the Soviet Union.

I undertook to write personally to you, (I am writing the same to [redacted]), not because you are people who would become officially involved if it ever reached the point of any official involvement, but because you are people in the Government whom I happen to know personally, and whose judgment I respect completely.

I would much appreciate it if you could give me some indication of your reaction to this general idea - and general only at this point. Making all the necessary assumptions, do you think that the idea is worth pursuing?

The next time I am in Washington, which I think will be sometime this spring, I hope to be in touch with you -- if not to see you, at least to have a telephone conversation.

All the best,

[redacted]

March 18, 1958

Dear [redacted]

I acknowledge your personal letter relative to [redacted] and his rather unusual experience in a cocktail lounge at Glen Cove.

My personal opinion is that every opportunity, if one is indeed offered, for Americans to take motion pictures within Russia should be utilized. We are endeavoring to encourage various kinds of exchanges of people and cultural material: this undertaking would seem to be along the same lines.

I have recently seen at a motion picture theater in Washington a long documentary film by an American about various parts of Russia called "This Is Russia." It was worth seeing for a number of reasons. I think more of its kind would be useful.

Because of the unusual character of [redacted] meeting with his unknown interlocutor, I should think for his own sake he would wish before undertaking any steps with the Russian Consulate to tell his story to the FBI. At least, if such an incident occurred to me, I should wish to make a report of it, during a period when foreign espionage seems to be increasing.

Beyond that, I should think a check with the Central Intelligence Agency would be desirable to ascertain its considered views. Perhaps they would not agree with my personal feeling. I have taken the liberty of transmitting this correspondence to the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence to obtain his views, and have asked him to let me know his opinion regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Cutler

Room 2201
42nd Street at First Avenue
New York 17, New York

cc: [redacted]

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover, FBI ✓

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9-20-58
HJG

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ENCLOSURE

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Tic: 1 - Boardman
1 - Belmont
1 - [redacted]

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REC-35

March 20, 1958

BY COURIER SERVICE

EX-136

Honorable Robert Cutler
Special Assistant to the President
Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Cutler:

This will acknowledge your note of March 18, 1958, enclosing copies of a letter to you from [redacted] dated March 13, 1958, and your reply to him dated March 18, 1958. You requested my opinion regarding the incident outlined in [redacted] letter.

In the absence of more specific information concerning the circumstances of the contact between [redacted] and the unknown individual, which it is noted occurred more than three years ago, I am unable to express a definite opinion as to whether this incident has any intelligence significance; however, I agree with the suggestion you made in your reply to [redacted] that [redacted] should report his story to the FBI since it would be a matter of interest to us. In view of the fact you have already suggested such action to [redacted] and, because of the personal and confidential nature of your correspondence with him, we will not at this time undertake personal contact with [redacted] or [redacted].

For your information, the files of this Bureau contain no information identifiable with [redacted].

BY COURIER SVC

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COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

Tolson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Nease _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

New York (Enclosures - 3) (See Note Page 2)

JJT:kg

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NOTE: Cover memo, Belmont to Boardman prepared by JJT:kg on 3-20-58 re this outgoing mail.

MAIL ROOM

REC'D MAIL ROOM

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REC'D-READING ROOM

Honorable Robert Cutler

NOTE FOR SAC, NEW YORK:

For information. No further action to be taken at this time. This matter being carried at Bureau under caption [redacted] Miscellaneous - Information Concerning (Espionage).